

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-5, 7, 11 and 24-27 have been amended, claims 12, 14, 18-23 and 28-32 have been cancelled, and new claims 33-37 have been added. Accordingly, claims 1-11, 13, 15-17, 24-27 and 33-37 are presented for reconsideration, as reflected below.

1. (Currently Amended) In a system including a data store and a property store, wherein the data store is indexed by a content index that is built using terms gathered from objects contained in the data store, and wherein the property store contains items that identify various properties of the data objects, a method for scoping a search of the data store in order to identify and return a desired subset of objects contained in the data store, and doing so without accessing the property store, wherein the search includes one or more terms, the method comprising:

an act of including an one or more identifiers in the content index whenever the content index is built and altered, so that wherein the one or more identifiers is implicitly included in the a search of the content index;

an act of receiving a search request from a user for documents that include the one or more search terms;

an act of identifying a first list of the content index that contains document identifiers, to facilitate scoping, by using -with- the one or more search terms from the content index;

an act of identifying a second list of the content index that contains document identifiers with the by using the one or more identifiers from the content index; and

an act of comparing the second list of document identifiers with-against the first list of document identifiers to identify a subset of document identifiers that satisfy the

search appear in both the first and second lists, such that the subset of document identifiers can be returned without having to access to the property store.

a' 2. (Currently Amended) A method as defined in claim 1, wherein the act of including an one or more identifiers in the content index further comprises an act of building the content index.

3. (Currently Amended) A method as defined in claim 1, further comprising an act of returning the subset of document identifiers without accessing the property store.

4. (Currently Amended) A method as defined in claim 1, wherein the act of comparing the second list of document identifiers with the first list of document identifiers further comprises an act of restricting the search based on the one or more identifiers.

5. (Currently Amended) A method as defined in claim 1, wherein the one or more identifiers is a folder identifier.

6. (Original) A method as defined in claim 5, wherein the folder identifier is unique across the content index.

7. (Currently Amended) A method as defined in claim 1, wherein the one or more identifiers is a Uniform Resource Locator.

a' 8. (Original) A method as defined in claim 1, wherein the act of comparing the second list of document identifiers with the first list of document identifiers further comprises an act of intersecting the second list of document identifiers with the first list of document identifiers to identify the subset of document identifiers.

9. (Original) A method as defined in claim 1, further comprising an act of refraining from comparing the second list of document identifiers with the first list of document identifiers when the second list of document identifiers cannot reduce the first list of document identifiers.

10. (Original) A method as defined in claim 1, further comprising an act of refraining from comparing the second list of document identifiers with the first list of document identifiers when processing only the first list of document identifiers is more efficient.

a' 11. (Currently Amended) In a system including one or more data stores, a property store that contains items that identify various properties of the data objects, and, wherein a search engine that gathers and indexes data from the one or more data stores into a content index, a method for focusing a search of the data one or more data stores in order to identify and return a desired subset of objects contained in the one or more data stores, and doing so without accessing the property store, wherein the search including includes one or more terms, the method comprising:

an act of including one or more scope restrictions in the content index when while the search engine indexes the data, whenever the content index is built and altered, wherein the one or more scope restrictions are non-text;

an act of receiving a search request from a user for documents that include the one or more search terms;

an act of adding at least one of the one or more scope restrictions to the search, such that the one or more scope restrictions are implicitly included in a search of the data store, the scope restriction included in the one or more scope restrictions;

an act of identifying a first list of document identifiers from the content index by using the one or more search terms of the search;

an act of identifying a second list of document identifiers from the content index by using the at least one scope restriction; and

an act of focusing the first list of document identifiers by using the second list of document identifiers to a step for generating a subset list of document identifiers that are contained in both the first and second lists from the first list of document identifiers; and

returning the subset list of document identifiers to a user without accessing the
property store.

12. (Cancelled).

13. (Original) A method as defined in claim 11, wherein the act of including one or more scope restrictions in the content index further comprises an act of building the content index.

14. (Cancelled).

15. (Original) A method as defined in claim 11, wherein the scope restriction is a folder identifier.

16. (Original) A method as defined in claim 15, wherein the folder identifier is unique across the content index.

17. (Original) A method as defined in claim 11, wherein the scope restriction is a Uniform Resource Locator.

Claims 18-23 (Cancelled).

24. (Currently Amended) A method as defined in claim 2311, wherein the step for generating a subset list of document identifiers further comprises a step for comparing the first list of document identifiers with the second list of document identifiers.

a' 25. (Currently Amended) A method as defined in claim 2311, wherein the step for generating a subset list of document identifiers further comprises a step of intersecting the second list of document identifiers with the first list of document identifiers.

26. (Currently Amended) A method as defined in claim 2311, wherein the step for generating a subset list of document identifiers further comprises a step for identifying matching document identifiers from the first list of document identifiers and the second list of document identifiers, wherein the matching document identifiers are included in the subset list of document identifiers.

27. (Currently Amended) A method as defined in claim 2311, further comprising a step for refraining from generating a subset list of document identifiers when it is efficient to only process the first list of document identifiers.

Claims 28-32 (Cancelled).

33. (New) A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the one or more identifiers are non-text.

34. (New) A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the data store includes a mail store partitioned into a plurality of mailboxes.

a' 35. (New) A method as recited in claim 34, wherein the one or more identifiers identifies a particular one of the mailboxes.

36. (New) A method as recited in claim 35, wherein the first and second lists of document identifiers correspond to one or more messages in the particular one of the mailboxes.

37. (New) A computer program product for use in a system that includes one or more data stores, a property store that contains items that identify various properties of the data objects, and a search engine that gathers and indexes data from the one or more data stores into a content index, the computer program product comprising one or more computer-readable media having computer-executable instructions for implementing a method for focusing a search of the one or more data stores in order to identify and return a desired subset of objects contained in the one or more data stores, and doing so without accessing the property store, wherein the search includes one or more terms, wherein the method comprises:

an act of including one or more scope restrictions to the content index when the search engine indexes the data, wherein the one or more scope restrictions are non-text;

an act of receiving a search request from a user for documents that include the one or more search terms;

an act of adding at least one of the one or more scope restrictions to the search;

an act of identifying a first list of document identifiers from the content index by using the one or more search terms;

an act of identifying a second list of document identifiers from the content index by using the at least one scope restriction;

an act of focusing the first list of document identifiers by using the second list of document identifiers to generate a subset list of document identifiers that are contained in both the first and second lists of document identifiers; and

returning the subset list of document identifiers to the user without accessing the property store.